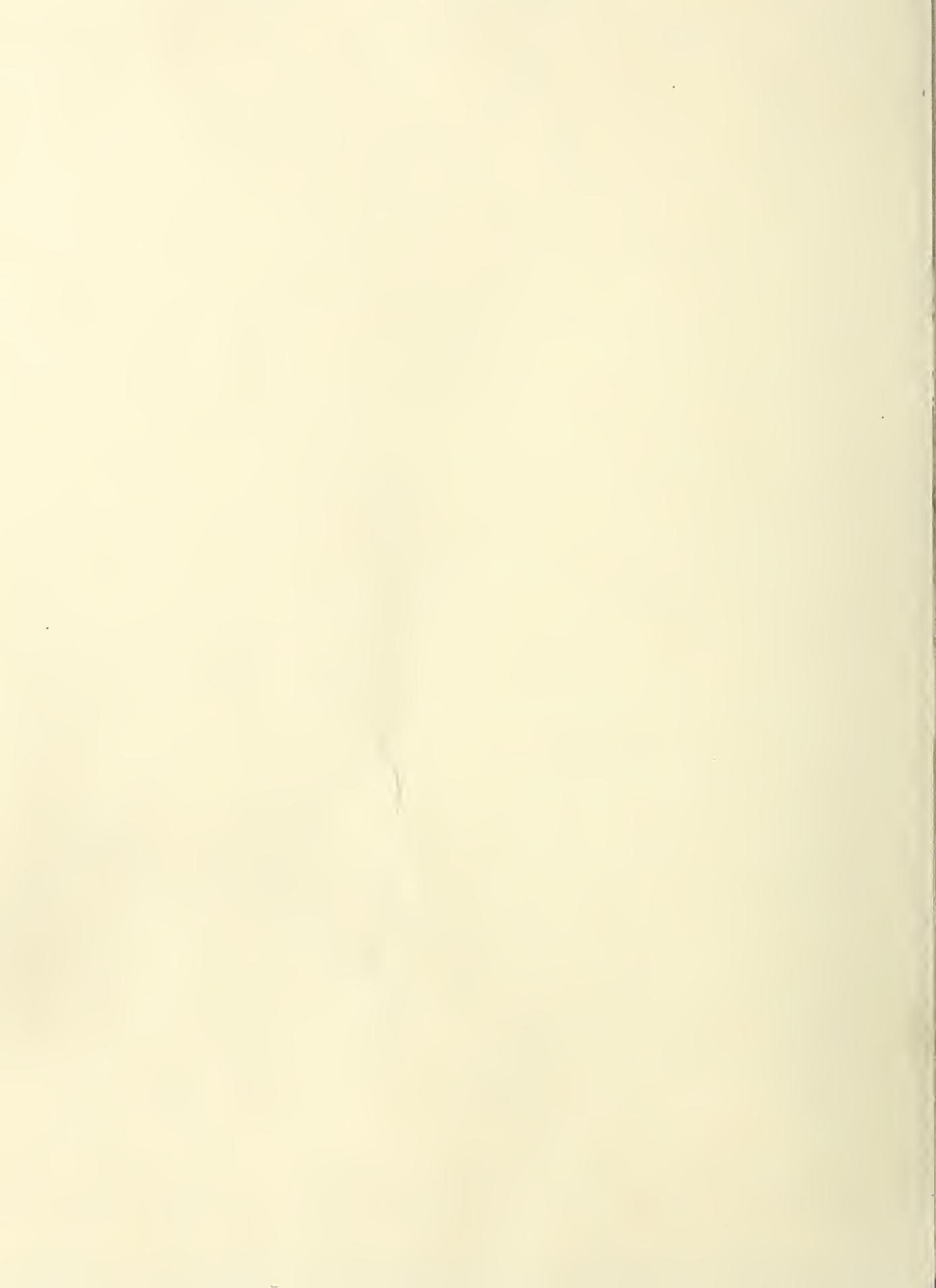


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# RESEARCH NOTE

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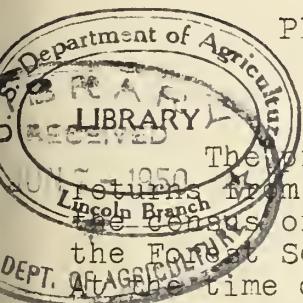


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No. 8

August 1940.

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS  
IN IDAHO AND MONTANA, 1939. <sup>1/</sup>



The production statistics presented in this summary of returns from Idaho and Montana manufacturers were collected at the census of lumber and timber products for 1939 conducted by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census. At the time of compilation all operators of record in Montana and Idaho had reported. However, all 1939 figures contained in this statement are preliminary and subject to possible corrections in the final report to be published by the Bureau of the Census.

In 1939, the total lumber cut in Idaho and Montana, by 371 active mills each producing 50 M feet or over, amounted to 945,581 M feet, an increase of 19.4 percent over the combined cut of these two States in 1938. Total production of lath in the two States increased from 48,752 M pieces in 1938 to 49,912 M pieces in 1939. The total quantity of shingles manufactured increased from 40,086 squares in 1938 to 46,536 squares in 1939.

Detailed lumber production statistics by kinds of wood for Montana and Idaho are given in table 1; comparative cut figures for the past three years, in table 2; and lumber stocks on hand at the beginning and end of 1939, in table 3. A summary showing production of the principal round, hewed, and split products in 1939 is given in table 4.

<sup>1/</sup> By C. N. Whitney, special agent, Bureau of the Census, and associate forester, Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.



Table 1.-Lumber cut by species, 1939, M feet b.m.  
(Mills cutting 50 M or over)

Kind of wood	Idaho	Montana	Combined cut	
			Volume	Percent
Idaho white pine	365,540	29,989	395,529	41.8
Ponderosa pine	200,266	129,277	329,543	34.8
Douglas-fir	52,769	39,170	91,939	9.7
Western larch	24,619	63,698	88,317	9.4
White fir	16,025	73	16,098	1.7
Spruce	5,993	5,447	11,440	1.2
Cedar	6,241	103	6,344	0.7
Lodgepole pine	2,080	2,202	4,282	0.5
Hemlock	1,979	-	1,979	0.2
All other	77	36	110 <sup>1/</sup>	-
Total	675,589	269,992	945,581	100.0
Lath, M pieces	37,382	12,530	49,912	
Shingles, squares	36,826	9,710	46,536	

<sup>1/</sup> Includes 91 M feet cottonwood, 15 M feet birch, and 4 M feet ash lumber.

In addition to the 371 mills cutting 50 M feet and upward, 68 mills in Idaho and 93 Montana mills reported production amounting to less than 50 M each in 1939. The aggregate additional production reported by these very small mills, not covered by cut figures included in table 1, amounted to 1,707 M for Idaho and 1,917 M for Montana.

Table 2.-Comparative production for 1939, 1938, and 1937, lumber cut M feet b.m.

State	(Mills cutting less than 50 M feet excluded)			Percent of increase or decrease	
	1939	1938	1937	1938-1939 : 1937-1938	
Idaho	675,589	570,571	797,492	+18.4	-28.5
Montana	269,992	221,579	335,045	+21.8	-33.9
Combined cut	945,581	792,150	1,132,537	+19.4	-30.1



During 1939 the total lumber stocks in Idaho and Montana decreased from 516,284 M feet board measure at the beginning of the year to 464,738 M feet board measure on December 31. The following summary includes inventories reported by all mills cutting 50 M feet and upwards:

Table 3.-Summary of lumber stocks

State	Lumber on hand, M feet board measure:		Percent of decrease
	January 1, 1939	December 31, 1939	
Idaho	383,350	336,511	12.3
Montana	132,934	128,227	3.5
Total	516,284	464,738	9.9

Summarized production figures for poles and piling, posts, hewed ties, and mine timbers are given in the following table. Considerable quantities of pulpwood and cordwood reported for each State are not included in this preliminary statement.

Table 4.-Production of principal round, hewed, and split products - 1939

State	Poles and piling	Posts	Hewed ties	Mine timbers
	Linear feet	No. pieces	No. pieces	Linear feet
Idaho	9,585,625	276,872	105	1,042,526
Montana	806,685	155,168	5,733	3,281,262
Total	10,392,310	432,040	5,838	4,323,788

For all of these products except fence posts, the quantities shown in this summary are considerably lower than those reported for 1937, the latest preceding census at which statistics for such products were collected.

